

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 IAEA VIENNA 9814

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SUBJ: REVISED CLASSIFICATION OF IAEA MEETINGS

EFFECTIVE 1/1/75.

1. SUMMARY: DEPT/AEC WILL RECALL THAT IAEA PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1975-80 (GC(XVIII)/526) APPROVED BY SEPTEMBER GENERAL CONFERENCE INCLUDED REFERENCE (PARA 6 OF INTRODUCTION) TO PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION OF IAEA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS DURING 1975. MISSION CONSIDERS IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RECALL AT THIS TIME WHAT NEW CATEGORIES ARE AND WHAT THEY WILL NORMALLY IMPLY WITH RESPECT US PARTICIPATION IN SUCH MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE MEMBER STATES HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY FORMAL DOCUMENT EMBODYING SUBSTANCE OF REVISED CLASSIFICATION SCHEME, FOLLOWING IS BASED LARGELY ON VARIOUS MISSION CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. SECRETARIAT INFORMS US THAT INITIAL YEAR OF NEW SCHEME WILL BE PROCESS OF EXPERIMENTATION AND REFINING NEW SYSTEM OF CATEGORIZATION THROUGH BETTER DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES AND REVIEW OF CLASSIFICATIONS OF EXISTING MEETINGS. WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE THIS EMBODIED IN SOME FORMAL DOCUMENT AT LATER DATE.

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3. INTENT OF RECLASSIFICATION EXERCISE IS TO RATIONALIZE WIDE VARIETY OF TITLES (AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES) ATTRIBUTED TO IAEA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS WHICH HAS GROWN UP OVER NUMBER OF YEARS; STAPLE TERM HAS BEEN "PANEL", BUT THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASSORTMENT OF "COMMITTEES", "WORKING GROUPS", "SPECIALISTS MEETINGS", ETC. RECLASSIFICATION IS INTENDED TO SIMPLIFY THIS BY ULTIMATELY INCLUDING VIRTUALLY ALL AGENCY SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS INTO FOUR GENERAL CATEGORIES, PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL SPECIALIZED CATEGORY, WITH (HOPEFULLY) RELATIVELY UNIFORM SET OF STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ULTIMATELY TO BE DEVELOPED AND MADE APPLICABLE TO EACH CATEGORY. AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE, IF CURRENT EXERCISE CAN BE CARRIES THROUGH, SECRETARIAT ALSO INTENDS TO EXAMINE STANDARDIZATION AND CENTRALIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR ALL MEETINGS ALONG SAME LINES AS CURRENTLY APPLY TO CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA. USE OF NEW CATEGORIES, AS DETAILED BELOW, WILL FORMALLY TAKE EFFECT ON JANUARY1, 1975.

4. INITIAL TWO CATEGORIES, AS FOLLOWS, SHARE CHARACTERISTICS OF BEING LARGE (UP TO HUNDREDS OF ATTENDEES) MEETINGS ANNOUNCED TO AND OPEN TO PARTICIPATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES (EXCEPT, OCCASIONALLY, WHERE SOME SEMINARS ARE LIMITED ON A REGIONAL OR SPECIAL FUNCTIONAL BASIS), WITH SIZE NORMALLY GOVERNED BY DEGREE OF GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE NOMINATED BY GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BEAR ALL COSTS OF PARTICIPATION EXCEPT FOR LIMITED NUMBER OF TRAVEL GRANTS BY AGENCY TO VERY FEW INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MEETINGS IN THESE CATEGORIES MUST NORMALLY BE APPROVED BY SAC A YEAR IN ADVANCE, AND THEN BY MEMBER STATES IN BOARD AND GENERAL CONFERENCE AS ANNEX TO ANNUAL BUDGET DOCUMENT. SUCH MEETINGS ARE NORMALL PROVIDED WITH FULL RANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVIDES BY SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING INTERPRETATION IN FOUR WORKING LANGUAGES OF AGENCY UNLESS WAIVED BY GOVERNMENTS THREE MONTHS IN ADVANCE (WHICH, PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, NEVER HAPPENS).

A. CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA: PRIMARY PURPOSE IS EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL INFORMATION IN A SPECIFIED FIELD. NORMALLY INVOLVES SOLICITATION, AND SELECTION OF PAPERS BY AGENCY FOR PRESENTATION BY PARTICIPANTS, AND ARE NORMALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPECTED TO LEAD TO PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT IN GENERAL SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

B. SEMINARS: PRIMARY PURPOSE IS GENERALLY TRAINING, TRANSFER OF INFORMATION FROM ADVANCED TO DEVELOPING

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(SCIENTIFICALLY) COUNTRIES, OR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A SPECIFIED TOPIC, WITH PAPERS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS INVITED BY AGENCY FROM PARTICULAR PARTICIPANTS. SIZE THUS GENERALLY RUNS SMALLER THAN CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA. WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS, ALTHOUGH THIS NOT RULED OUT IN PARTICULAR CASES.

5. NEXT TWO CATEGORIES INCLUDE TYPES OF MEETING FORMERLY CARRIED UNDER GENERAL FRUBRIC OF "PANEL" AND ANALAGOUS TERMS. THESE ARE SMALLER IN SIZE (GENERALLY ABOUT 15-20 PARTICIPANTS, PLUS ANY OBSERVERS) BEING LIMITED TO MEMBER STATES OR INDICIDUALS SPECIFICALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE, RATHER THAN BEING GENERALLY ANNOUNCED AND OPEN TO PARTICIPATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES. MEETINGS IN THSE CATEGORIES ARE NORMALLY INCLUDED IN SUMMARY FORM AS ANNEX TO ANNUAL BUDGET DOCUMENT, AND ARE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN BIENNIAL PROGRAM OF WORK; THUS THEY ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY MEMBER STATES IN BOARD AND GENERAL CONFERENCE. MAY BE EITHER STANDING OR AD HOC BODIES, DEPENDING UPON SUBJECT BEING DEALT WITH AND TYPE OF APPROVAL GIVEN IN PROGRAM AND BUDGET. SUCH MEETINGS ARE PROVIDED WITH MORE LIMITED RANGE OF SERVICES BY AGENCY, USUALLY INCLUDING ONLY INTERPRETATION INTO LANGUAGES ACTUALLY REQUIRED FOR MEETING.

A. TECHNICAL COMMITTEES: PURPOSE IS NORMALLY EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND/OR PREPARATION OF REPORT OR DOUCMENT ON SUBJECT OF GENERAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST; WOULD NORMALLY BE UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPECTED TO LEAD TO PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER DOCUMENT. PARTICIPANTS ARE NOMINATED BY MEMBER STATES INVITED BY AGENCY TO ATTEND AND ARE ASSUMED BY AGENCY TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF GOVERNMENTAL THINKING ON SUBJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION; THEY ARE NOT RPT NOT IN PRINCIPLE SELECTED BY AGENCY AS INDIVIDUALS (ALTHOUGH IN PRACTICE, SECRETARIAT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO FEEL FREE TO ASSIST MEMBER STATES BY SUGGESTING NAMES OF POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS WHICH MIGHT BE NOMINATED). UNDER NEW GUIDELINES, ALL RPT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN TECHNICAL COMMITTEES, SINCE THEY ATTEND AS GOVERNMENTAL NOMINEES, WILL BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE AT EXPENSE OF GOVERNMENTS, AND AT NO RPT NO EXPENSE TO AGENCY, EXCEPT FOR LIMITED NUMBER OF TRAVEL GRANTS TO FEW INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AS IS CURRENTLY CASE FOR LARGER SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS. COMMENT: THIS GROUP INCLUDES MOST SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN NEW CATEGORIZATION SCHEME BY ITS EMPHASIS ON PARTICIPANTS COMING AT NO RPT NO EXPENSE TO AGENCY IN VIEW THEIR STATUS AS GOVERNMENTAL NOMINEES. THIS CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE ESPECIALLY TRUE OF PARTICIPANTS FROM ADVANCED COUNTRIES. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT THIS NEW FACTOR BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AT ONCE AND ON CONTINUING BASIS BY AEC IN CONSIDERING US PARTICIPATION IN IAEA MEETINGS INCLUDED IN 1975 APPROVED PROGRAM OF WORK WHICH ARE DESIGNATED "TECHNICAL COMMITTEES". END COMMENT.

B. ADVISORY GROUPS: PURPOSE IS NORMALLY TO ADVISE DG OR SECRETARIAT ON ELABORATION, DEVELOPMENT OR IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME ASPECT OF AGENCY'S PROGRAM. MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER REPORT, DEPENDING ON NATURE OF SUBJECT MATTER; MIGHT IN SOME CASES BE CALLED UPON TO ASSIST SECRETARIAT IN DRAFTING SOME DOCUMENT INTENDED FOR GENERAL PUBLICATION AND/OR SUBMISSION TO BOARD FOR APPROVAL. PARTICIPANTS ATTEND AS INDIVIDUALS NOMINATED BY DG WITH CONSENT OF GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN AS GOVERNMENTAL NOMINEES (ALTHOUGH IN PRACTICE SECRETARIAT MAY CONTINUE TO FEEL FREE TO SOLICIT SUGGESTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS AS TO WHOM DG MIGHT MOST APPROPRIATELY NOMINATE TO PARTICIPATE IN A PARTICULAR MEETING). IN PRINCIPLE, PARTICIPATION WOULD BE A AGENCY EXPENSE, ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENTS OF ADVANCED COUNTRIES WILL PROBABLY BE REQUESTED TO DEFRAY COSTS OF PARTICIPATION BY THEIR NATIONALS IN CERTAIN CASES, OR IN GENERAL DURING RECURRENT PERIODS OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY IN AGENCY.

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6. FINALLY, SPECIAL FIFTH CATEGORY WILL EXIST FOR RESEARCH COORDINATION MEETINGS, WHICH WILL BE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM PRESENT PRACTICE. SUCH MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY HELD ANNUALLY IN CONNECTION WITH EACH IAEA COORDINATED RESEARCH PROGRAM, WITH

PURPOSE OF FACILITATING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PLANNING OF FUTURE WORK FOR SUCH PROGRAMS. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE NOMINATED BY AGENCY AND ATTEND AT AGENCY EXPENSE, AND ARE LIMITED TO INDIVIDUALS (OR THEIR DESIGNATED REPLACEMENTS) HOLDING IAEA RESEARCH CONTRACTS OR RESEARCH AGREEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH A PARTICULAR COORDINATED PROGRAM OF RESEARCH. SERVICES ARE LIMITED TO ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS, AND REPORTS ARE NORMALLY CIRCULATED ONLY TO PARTICIPANTS AND INTERNALLY WITHIN SECRETARIATS OF IAEA OR OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS.

7. FOREGOING WILL NOT RPT NOT AFFECT SMALLER MEETINGS, AVERAGING 2-4 INDIVIDUALS, GOING UNDER GENERAL HEADING OF CONSULTANTS MEETINGS WHICH ARE CONVENED PERIODICALLY BY INDIVIDUAL SECRETARIAT OFFICES. MEETINGS OF THIS SORT ARE QUITE INFORMAL, GENERALLY PUBLISH NO PROCEEDINGS (ALTHOUGH THEY MAY PRODUCE A PAPER OR REPORT FOR THE SECRETARIAT UNIT CONCERNED), AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO FORMAL APPROVAL BY MEMBER STATES AS THEY ARE FUNDED FROM APPROPRIATIONS FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES (WHAT THEY AMOUNT TO IS INVITATION OF 2-4 OUTSIDE INDIVIDUALS TO COME AS CONSULTANTS AT SAME TIME). PARTICIPANTS IN SUCH MEETINGS ARE INDIVIDUALLY-INVITED SCIENTISTS SERVING AS CONSULTANTS TO SECRETARIAT, AND THEIR EXPENSES ARE NORMALLY PAID BY AGENCY. THIS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE MAJOR LOOPHOLE IN NEW CATEGORIZATION SCHEME, SIMPLY BECAUSE IAEA CONSULTANT FUNDS ARE NORMALLY TOO LIMITED TO PERMIT USE FOR LARGER MEETINGS.

8. ALSO, WE EXPECT TO SEE CERTAIN CASES WHERE, EVEN AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION OF NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, TERMINOLOGY CURRENTLY APPLIED TO A PARTICULAR BODY WILL NOT BE CHANGED; EXAMPLES MIGHT INCLUDE BODIES SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL FUSION RESEARCH COUNCIL, INIS LIAISON GROUP, SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ETC. FOR MOST PART, THESE ARE CONTINUING BODIES WHOSE NAMES AND FUNCTIONS HAVE BECOME SO WELL-ESTABLISHED THAT IT IS IMPRACTICAL TO CHANGE THEM SIMPLY FOR CONSISTENCY

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WITH A NEW SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE MANY INVOLVE CLOSE INTERACTION WITH OR JOINT SPONSORSHIP BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS OECD/NEA. FOR PURPOSES OF PARTICIPATION, NOMINATION, FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SO ON, BODIES SUCH AS THIS COULD BE LISTED AS FALLING WITHIN A GIVEN CATEGORY (E.G., INTERNATIONAL FUSION RESEARCH COUNCIL WOULD PROBABLY BE CLASSED AS A STANDING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, SINCE ITS MEMBERS ARE GOVERNMENTALLY-NOMINATED AND PARTICIPATE IN ITS ACTIVITIES AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE FOR PURPOSE OF MUTUAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS ON THIS SUBJECT.) THOSE PERMANENT STANDING BODIES CURRENTLY KNOWN AS "INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUPS" (OR ANALAGOUS TERMS) ARE CURRENTLY UNDER GENERAL SECRETARIAT REVIEW LEADING TO REVIEW AND REVISION BY THE GROUPS OF THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE, PROGRAMS, AND SUBSIDIARY SPECIALISTS MEETINGS. WHILE DECISIONS ON SUCH BODIES WILL AWAIT COMPLETION OF INDIVIDUAL REVIEWS, IT APPEARS LIKELY TO MISSION THAT MOST WILL SOONER OR LATER BE DESIGNATED, FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, AS STANDING TECHNICAL COMMITTEES.

9. FINALLY, WE EXPECT TO SEE CERTAIN NUMBER OF EXAMPLES OF TERM "SENIOR ADVISORY GROUP", WHICH HAS LATELY COME INTO CURRENCY, CONTINUE IN USE IN CONNECTION WITH PROGRAMS SUCH AS POWER REACTOR SAFETY STANDARDS, WASTE MANAGEMENT, ETC., TO DENOTE CONTINUING BODY WITH REPRESENTATION FROM HIGHER RESPONSIBLE LEVELS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC HEIRARCHY HAVING RESPONSIBILITY TO ADVISE DG AND/OR EXERCISE GENERAL TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT ON BEHALF OF MEMBER STATES FOR AGENCY PROGRAMS IN AREAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE. GENERALLY SPEAKING, BODIES SUCH AS THIS COULD PROBABLY BE CLASSED AS A HYBRID BETWEEN A STANDING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND A STANDING ADVISORY GROUP, HAVING PURPOSE OF LATTER BUT NOMINATING AND, USUALLY, PARTICIPATION CHARACTERISTICS OF FORMER.

10. WE EXPECT TO SEE FOREGOING SYSTEM OF NEW TERMINOLOGY COMING INTO USE GRADUALLY AS 1975 MEETING SCHEDULE GETS UNDER WAY AFTER FORMAL EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 1975, BOTH TO FACILITATE ORDERLY TRANSITION TO NEW SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND TO PERMIT INTERESTED MEMBERS OF SECRETARIAT TO BECOME USED TO NEW CATEGORIES AND THEIR USE. IN ADDITION, WE ALSO EXPECT

THAT SIMPLE INERTIA WILL RESULT IN OUR SEEING RECURRENCE OF SUPPOSEDLY-BANISHED TERMS SUCH AS "PANEL" OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE ALREADY OBSERVED BEGINNING OF USE OF NEW TERMINOLOGY, NOTABLE IN PROGRAM AND BUDGET DOCUMENT ITSELF (IN AT LEAST A FEW CASES, THIS USE HAS GONE INTO TYPE OF PARTICIPATION AS WELL, AS WHERE US SUGGESTION THAT AGENCY PAY COSTS OF A US PARTICIPANT WAS TURNED DOWN SINCE MEETING FELL INTO A CATEGORY, USUALLY A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, WHERE AGENCY WOULD NOT NORMALLY PAY COSTS FOR ANY PARTICIPANT EXCEPT, IN SPECIAL CASES, FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY). OTHER MEMBER STATES HAVE ALSO BEEN TURNED DOWN IN SIMILAR CASES.

11. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, AS WE HAVE OBSERVED IN PAST, MISSION FEELS THAT SECRETARIAT IS DOING BOTH ITSELF AND MEMBER STATES A SERVICE IN TRYING TO BRING SOME RELATIVE COMPREHENSIBILITY TO PROLIFERATION OF TYPES OF MEETINGS IN AGENCY ANNUAL PROGRAM. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT USG MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COOPERATE WITH SECRETARIAT IN THIS RESPECT. IN PARTICULAR, MISSION FEELS THAT US SHOULD BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT DURING 1975 AND IN FUTURE TO ATTEMPT TO UPSET APPLE CART BY PRESSING AGENCY TO PAY FOR US PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CATEGORY. SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE MEETINGS IS NORMALLY OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, WITH AGENCY ROLE BEING MORE FACILITATIVE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. ALSO WHILE WE APPRECIATE THAT INTERNAL BUDGETARY UNCLASSIFIED

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STRINGENCIES CAN UPSET US PARTICIPATION IF NOT PLANNED WELL IN ADVANCE, AGENCY IS UNDER STEADY PRESSURE FROM BOTH FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND FROM ADVANCED MEMBER STATES TO MAINTAIN AUSTERE APPROACH TO ITS OWN BUDGETING. IN LARGE PART, THIS RE-CATEGORIZATION IS INTENDED TO FACILITATE THIS PROCESS BY MAKING IT CLEAR IN ADVANCE TO MEMBER STATES WHICH MEETINGS THEY WILL BE EXPECTED TO PAY FOR THEMSELVES. FOR THIS REASON, MISSION CONSIDERS THAT AS GENERAL RULE, US SHOULD NOT RPT NOT UNDERCUT RATIONALE UNDERLYING NEW SYSTEM OF CATEGORIZATION BY ARGUING THAT AGENCY SHOULD PAY FOR US PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THIS TYPE, EVEN WHERE, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, WE ARE UNABLE TO FIND FUNDS TO PAY FOR IT OURSELVES. END COMMENT.

12. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THIS CABLE BE RETAINED FOR REFERENCE BY INTERESTED OFFICES IN STATE AND AEC PENDING EITHER ISSUANCE BY SECRETARIAT OF SOME MORE FORMAL DESCRIPTION OF NEW SYSTEM OF MEETING CATEGORIZATION OR DECISION BY SECRETARIAT THAT EFFORT HAS BOGGED DOWN AND NEED NO LONGER BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.
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